



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

14921
ART UNIT: 1709

APPLICANT: VONDRACEK

ART UNIT: 1709

SERIAL NO.: 10/551,537

EXAMINER: CHRISTINE CHEN

FILED: September 14, 2005

FOR: METHOD FOR THERMOMECHANICAL TREATMENT OF STEEL

RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the required election of species, applicant makes the following election with traverse:

For the category involving the starting material, applicant elects the species i. Spring steel (claim 18)

For the category involving the change in shape, applicant elects the species i. Wound into a coil spring (claim 21.)

Applicant lists claims 1 to 18 and 21 to 24 as being readable on the category involving the starting material.

Applicant lists claims 1 to 21 and 24 as being readable on the category involving the change in shape.

The preceding elections are being made with traverse in view of the following:

Applicant notes that claim 1 recites a method for thermomechanical treatment of steel in which steel is generic to the special types of steel expressed in claims 18, 19, and 20.